

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-41. (canceled)

1
~~42.~~ (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule which comprises a nucleotide sequence that

(a) encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant thereof at least 90% identical thereto and having only conservative amino acid substitutions, which ~~variant is immunoreactive with at least one antibody~~ raises antibodies that specifically ~~binds~~ bind an extracellular region of the protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; or

(b) encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE5 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207129;

(c) encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE9 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207084; or

(d) ~~comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide residue number 6 through nucleotide residue number 2138 or a full length variant of said nucleotide sequence from positions 6-2138 that hybridizes to the complement of said nucleotide sequence under stringent conditions correcting to wash at 0.1 x SSC containing EDTA at 55°C; or~~

(d) comprises a nucleotide sequence complementary to the entire length of the nucleotide sequences designated in paragraphs (a)-(c).

2
~~43.~~ (currently amended): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant thereof at least 90% identical thereto and having only conservative amino acid substitutions, which ~~variant is immunoreactive with at least one antibody~~ raises antibodies that specifically ~~binds~~ bind an extracellular region of the protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

~~44.~~³ (previously presented): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 43 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

~~45.~~⁴ (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE5 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207129 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

~~46.~~⁵ (previously presented): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 which comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein encoded by a cDNA contained in the plasmid designated p24P4C12-GTE9 deposited with American Type Culture Collection as Designation No. 207084 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

47. (canceled)

~~48.~~⁶ (previously presented): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 47 which comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide residue number 6 through nucleotide residue number 2138 or a complement of said nucleotide sequence over its entire length.

~~49.~~⁷ (previously presented): A recombinant expression system which comprises the nucleotide sequence contained in the nucleic acid molecule of claim 42 operably linked to control sequences for expression.

~~50.~~⁸ (previously presented): Recombinant host cells comprising the expression system of claim 49.

~~51.~~⁹ (previously presented): A method to produce a protein having the characteristics of 24P4C12 which method comprises culturing the cells of claim 50 under conditions for expression, and optionally recovering said protein.